

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 054741

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, GB

SUBJECT: OUTSTANDING FMS ACCOUNTS

REF: LIBREVILLE 0268

1. IN RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S LETTER OF 5 FEBRUARY EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. GOG PURCHASED PATROL CRAFT NGUENE COMMERCIALLY FROM SWIFT SHIPS BUT THE PURCHASES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION AS WELL AS WEAPONS TRAINING FOR NGUENE WERE FMS CASH SALES REQUIRING GOG SIGNATURES ON LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) WITH U.S. NAVY.

B. DEFENSE RECORDS SHOW THAT PRESIDENT BONGO HIMSELF SIGNED FRENCH-LANGAUGE LOA GB-AAA-P4 FOR AMMO COSTING AN CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTIMATED 21,445 DOLLARS ON 25 SEP 1974; FINANCE MINISTER

PAUL MOUKAMBI SIGNED LOA GG-LAA-P4 FOR WEAPONS AND SPARE PARTS COSTING AN ESTIMATED 190,179 DOLLARS ON 6 JAN 1975; AND AMBASSADOR MAVOUNGOU SIGNED LOA GB-TAA-P5 FOR TRAINING ON PATROL CRAFT AND WEAPONS COSTING AN ESTIMATED 6,230 DOLLARS ON 9 APR 1975.

C. GOG PAID SWIFT SHIPS 69,476 DOLLARS, OF WHICH 6,202

DOLLARS WAS PAID IN ADVANCE TO U.S. NAVY FOR LOA GB-TAA-P5 FOR TRAINING, TRANSLATION, AND MOUNTING ETC.

D. SWIFT SHIPS DID NOT FORWARD THE REMAINING 62,874 DOLLARS TO THE NAVY BUT INSTEAD HAS ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO RETURN THE MONEY TO THE GABONESE.

E. U.S. NAVY THUS FAR HAS BILLED GOG 81,911.10 DOLLARS FOR ITEMS DELIVERED UNDER FMS CASE GB-LAA-P4 AND WILL BILL FOR REMAINING ITEMS WHEN DELIVERED. SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON DELIVERY OF AMMO UNDER GB-AAA-P4.

2. ACTION REQUESTED.

EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOG OF THE FOREGOING AND REQUEST IT AUTHORIZE SWIFT SHIPS BY CABLE TO PAY 62,874 DOLLARS TO U.S. TREASURY. GOG SHOULD PAY DIFFERENCE OF 19,037.10 DOLLARS TO U.S. TREASURY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S. NAVY INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CONTROL OFFICE, BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002 TO INSURE PROPER CREDITING TO GOG ACCOUNT. WE WILL LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION THE TIMING OF YOUR APPROACH TO GOG. KISSINGER

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